

the Space Shuttle program. While the names of the astronauts will be recorded in the history books, we must also note the thousands of individuals who worked behind the scenes to make history by challenging the final frontier.

I am concerned about losing the workforce that has dedicated their knowledge to the exploration of our universe. I believe that we could lose a competitive and innovative edge that we maintain at the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Soon the Space Shuttle Fleet will be shipped off to museums around the country and will become items that school children will visit to see America's past glories in space. These children will see these space exploration vehicles, then look towards the stars sparking their imagination to ask the question "what lies beyond?" However, when the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* lands in the next several days for the first time in my entire 50 years on Earth we will not have a vehicle or a plan to send humans from our planet into space.

The space program is essential to the State of Florida. Thousands of the brightest scientific minds reside in the area surrounding the Kennedy Space Center and billions of dollars of economic activity are generated in the States of Texas, California and my home State of Florida. In addition, since the Mercury Program, the Space Program has placed our Nation on the cutting edge of innovation.

President John F. Kennedy challenged our Nation to land a man on the Moon. In the space race with the Soviet Union, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin placed an American flag on the lunar surface in 1969. Now the former Soviet Union is our taxi cab ride to the International Space Station at a cost of approximately \$63 million a seat. Further, China is now building their ability to be the leaders in space exploration. This is unacceptable and the antithesis of American exceptionalism.

While we have had failures in the space program along the way, such as *Apollo 1*, *Challenger* and *Columbia*, when some individuals felt we should stop manned space flight after the *Challenger* accident, President Ronald Reagan stated: "We'll continue our quest in space. There will be more shuttle flights and more shuttle crews and, yes, more volunteers, more civilians, more teachers in space. Nothing ends here; our hopes and our journeys continue."

I am concerned that the United States has no plans for human exploration capability to go beyond Earth's orbit for an indeterminate time into the future. Space will always be challenging and dangerous, but we are Americans and we have always met our challenges and faced danger. And with regard to space we must continue the journey, focus on the stars, reach for the heavens, and be a leader in space exploration in the 21st century.

Americans, by our nature, do not accept being in second place. I am committed to ensuring that one day we again will be the leaders in manned space exploration.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. FRANK C. GUINTA

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. GUINTA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes No. 495–501, I am not recorded because I was absent from the U.S. House of Representatives. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner.

On rollcall No. 495. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 496. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 497. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 498. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 499. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

On rollcall No. 500. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 501. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN TRIBUTE TO THE RONALD REAGAN PRESIDENTIAL FOUNDATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and, in particular—Frederick Ryan, Jr., Chairman of the Foundation Board of Directors, and John Heubusch, Foundation Executive Director—and the Ronald Reagan Centennial Commission for their leadership in conducting a series of successful European events last week honoring our 40th President.

I and a number of my colleagues traveled to Europe last week to meet with our allies, particularly those in Eastern Europe, and to reassure them of America's continued friendship and support in light of Russia's continued commitment to one-party rule and suppression of human rights.

While there, we were fortunate to participate in several Foundation events honoring Ronald Reagan's role in bringing freedom to Eastern Europe. The people of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and other former communist satellite states know well how President Reagan's commitment to peace through strength led him to abandon the failed policy of détente and to embrace a policy of actively opposing communist regimes around the world.

That opposition led to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain and to freedom for millions of people choked by the Soviet's stronghold on their nations. In Krakow, we attended a Mass of Thanksgiving in honor of Pope John Paul II and President Reagan, the two leaders the Polish people credit with inspiring their revolution against the Soviet empire. In Budapest, we participated in the unveiling of a statue of President Reagan in Freedom Square. In Prague, we participated in naming the street in front of the U.S. Ambassador's residence for President Reagan.

Those public displays only underline the true love Eastern Europeans have for Presi-

dent Reagan. In meetings with East European officials and chance meetings with local people in East European capitals, everyone was effusive in their praise of Ronald Reagan. Americans recognize the peace and prosperity President Reagan brought to the United States during his presidency. For Eastern Europeans, he helped bring them their very freedom.

As the author of the bill that created the Centennial Commission and as a member of the Commission, I was duly impressed with the events and tributes the Foundation and Commission, under the direction of Mr. Ryan and Mr. Heubusch, masterfully undertook both in Europe and the United States to honor Ronald Reagan this year.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues on both sides of the aisle join me in paying tribute to those who worked so hard to remember and honor a great president who changed the course of history both here and around the world and to thank them for their service to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO KACIA CAIN

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Kacia Cain, who teaches anatomy, physiology and biotechnology and was named outstanding biology teacher of the year for the state of Iowa by the National Association of Biology Teachers.

Ms. Cain previously taught biology at Des Moines East High School for 19 years before transferring this school year to Des Moines Central Campus High School. She is a native of Indianola, Iowa, and will be recognized in October at the National Association of Biology Teachers convention in Anaheim, California.

Having a hands-on teaching style has allowed Ms. Cain to be very successful with her students. Using resources from nearby colleges ensures that students are making as many connections with real world research experiences as possible.

I am honored to represent Kacia Cain in the United States Congress, and I wish her the best of luck in Anaheim, California. I also wish Ms. Cain the very best as she continues to serve as a mentor and role model to the students at Des Moines Central Campus High School. I know my colleagues in the U.S. Congress will join me in congratulating Kacia Cain.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN D. FILAMOR

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and Ranking Member CONYERS, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize John D. Filamor who is leaving the House to take a position with the Department of Justice. Mr. Filamor served in the Office of the General Counsel for 10 years, first as a law clerk while he was still a student at George Washington University Law School; from 2001–10

as an Assistant Counsel; and more recently as a Senior Assistant Counsel. We will miss him.

Mr. Filamor provided frequent and invaluable legal advice and representation to the House Committee on the Judiciary, as well as to Members, officers and other committees of the House more generally. Our staff came to rely on his expertise and guidance in connection with many of their investigative and oversight activities, as well as in connection with the Committee's interactions with the other branches of the Federal Government. Over the years, Mr. Filamor played a significant role in safeguarding the legal and institutional interests of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Filamor served the House with great distinction, and we know he will serve the Department of Justice with that same level of distinction. On behalf of the House Committee on the Judiciary, we thank him for his many years of devoted service, and extend to him our very best wishes for his continued success.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY SUICIDES: CONDOLENCE LETTERS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my gratitude to President Obama for altering U.S. government policy to end the practice of denying condolence letters to the families of soldiers who commit suicide while serving abroad. I strongly support that change, and I applaud President Obama for taking this important step.

The men and women who commit suicide while serving our country on active duty overseas are casualties of war, and I strongly believe that they should be remembered as such. Those soldiers suffer the unseen wounds of war, which, though often ignored, can be devastating. Their sacrifice for our Nation should be honored and celebrated, and their surviving families and friends should know that we appreciate their loved ones' service.

In his statement announcing the policy change, the President emphasized that these men and women suffered the consequences of war, and they did not receive the services and treatment that they needed. As the President emphasized, that needs to change. We need to do far more to help those who bear the burden of our wars, by ensuring that they have the physical and emotional support they need, access to quality mental health services, and assistance to help them and their families cope with the immense stress of war.

By changing this policy, the President has taken an important step towards reducing the stigma surrounding the invisible injuries of war. We need to continue to work to ensure that soldiers know what services are available to them and feel comfortable seeking out the help that they need.

The act of sending a condolence letter recognizes the tragic loss and enormous sacrifice of our military families. The mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, sons and daughters who lose a loved one to either a visible or unseen wound of war should know that we, as a country, mourn their losses. We should honor the sacrifice of all who give their lives in the service of our country.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO A PUERTO RICAN-AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY—COMPOSER, LYRICIST AND ACTOR LIN-MANUEL MIRANDA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Mr. Lin-Manuel Miranda for all of his marvelous accomplishments. It is my pleasure to pay tribute to this prodigious composer, lyricist and actor. I want to give thanks to this exceptional constituent for sharing his vision and talents with the world for all to enjoy.

Mr. Miranda is a native New Yorker who grew up in Manhattan's diverse and vivacious Washington Heights neighborhood and is of Puerto Rican descent. He attended Hunter College High School and later graduated from Wesleyan University in 2002. While pursuing higher education he wrote his earliest draft of *In the Heights* in 1999. He also wrote, acted and directed several other musicals while attending Wesleyan. While in school he diligently worked to perfect his craft, so it is of no surprise that Mr. Miranda would later take such large strides toward the road of success.

His claim to fame comes from writing and starring as Usnavi in the Broadway musical *In the Heights*, which opened on Broadway at the Richard Rodgers Theater in 2008. This phenomenal musical composer has won the Tony Award as composer and lyricist. With his creativity and determination he was able to take an idea and catapult it into success. He took a risk and believed in his dream as well as himself. We can all learn from this fine example and believe in ourselves, especially when no one else will. We should all have the courage to live out our dreams, while inspiring others. Les Brown once said "Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." This is exactly what Mr. Miranda did and now he is taking his dreams and plays to new heights.

With his countless accomplishments, it is impossible to single out Mr. Miranda's greatest achievement, but one could say that *In the Heights* has won critical acclaim. This extraordinary theater piece has been nominated and has won countless awards, such as the 2009 Grammy for Best Musical Show Album, 2008 Tony Award for Best Musical, 2008 Tony Award for Best Original Score, and was a Finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, among many other accolades. As a performer, Mr. Miranda has also showcased his talents on many popular television series, including *The Sopranos*, *House*, *Electric Company*, *Modern Family* and *Sesame Street*. Mr. Miranda is also a co-founder of the popular hip hop-improvisational group, *Freestyle Love Supreme* that has toured comedy festivals throughout the world and continues to perform at esteemed venues throughout the country.

The White House has taken notice of this rising star. In 2009 he was invited to perform at the White House Evening of Poetry, Music and the Spoken Word. The University of Yeshiva also took notice of his greatness and bestowed him with an honorary degree. He has also been acknowledged by former mayor of New York City Ed Koch. This young fresh tal-

ent continues to believe in his dream and make positive strides. He is currently working on a musical theatre version of *Bring It On*, which will start its National Tour in the fall of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, for this, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues in Congress join me in applauding this prolific artist, who is truly an inspiration.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO UPDATE THE VPPA

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 8, 2011

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, today I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives COBLE, SENSENBRENNER and SANCHEZ in introducing a bipartisan bill to update the Video Privacy Protection Act of 1988, VPPA. This bill will ensure that a law related to the handling of video tape rental information is updated to reflect the realities of the 21st Century.

The VPPA was passed by Congress in the wake of Judge Robert Bork's 1987 Supreme Court nomination battle, during which a local Washington, DC, newspaper obtained a list of video tapes the Bork family rented from its neighborhood video tape rental store. This disclosure caused bipartisan outrage, which resulted in the enactment of the VPPA.

The commercial video distribution landscape has changed dramatically since 1988. Back then, the primary consumer consumption of commercial video content occurred through the sale or rental of prerecorded video cassette tapes. This required users to travel to their local video rental store to pick a movie. Afterward, consumers had to travel back to the store to return the rented movie. Movies that consumers rented and enjoyed were recommended to friends primarily through face-to-face conversations. With today's technology, consumers can quickly and efficiently access video programming through a variety of platforms, including through Internet Protocol-based video services—all without leaving their homes.

Our proposed amendment updates the VPPA to allow video tape service providers to facilitate the sharing on social media networks of the movies watched or recommended by users. Specifically, it is narrowly crafted to preserve the VPPA's protections for consumers' privacy while modernizing the law to empower consumers to do more with their video consumption preferences, including sharing names of new or favorite TV shows or movies on social media in a simple way. However, it protects the consumer's control over his information by requiring consumer consent before any of this can occur. And, it makes clear that a consumer can opt-in to the ongoing sharing of his or her favorite movies or TV shows without having to provide consent each and every time a movie is rented. It also makes clear that written, affirmative consent can be provided through the Internet and can be withdrawn at any time.

This amendment does not change the privacy standard adopted by Congress when the VPPA was first enacted. Specifically, it preserves the requirement that the users provide affirmative, written consent.